

A. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as indicated hereinafter.

Please replace page 13 line 2 with the following:

FIG. 1B is a block diagram of an example network context in which an embodiment may be used. A managed ~~network 102~~ network 101 comprises at least one network element 120 that maintains a log file 103. Network element 120 may be one or more routers, switches, or other network devices. Network element 120 is communicatively coupled to other devices in network 101 and to a gateway 140 having a fault correlation proxy 130. The gateway 140 is further communicatively coupled, directly or indirectly through one or more intervening networks, to network management station 104. Network management station 104 executes an OSS 108 that includes a comparison module 150. Comparison module 150 carries out a string comparison, numeric comparison, bitwise comparison, or other comparison as appropriate to the data type of the keys and labels.